RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL Shellfish Advisory Panel

Meeting: Tuesday June 28, 2005 4:30 PM Fort Wetherill Marine Laboratory, Jamestown, RI

TENTATIVE AGENDA

- 1) Old Business
 - a) Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association (RISA) proposal for a change to Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations, Part IV – Shellfish, 4.10 Greenwich Bay; Boat Harvest, 4.10.4. (see attached)
- 2) New Business
 - a) Discussion on creation of whelk harvest regulations.
 - b) Discussion on Department of Health Regulations relating to stocking of juvenile shellfish reared in polluted water upwellers.
- 3) Adjourn

Rhode Island Shellfisherman's Association (RISA) proposal for a change to RHODE ISLAND MARINE FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS, Part IV – Shellfish, 4.10 Greenwich Bay; Boat Harvest, 4.10.4.

RISA proposes that the May to Sept opening for the waters east of a line between Sally Rock Point and the westernmost flagpole on Promenade Street, Old Buttonwoods will be open to harvesting from a boat between sunrise and sunset daily on a year round basis under current management rules of 3 bushels.

- RISA Rational 1. This is a rainfall closure area and fishing access is limited.
- RISA Rational 2. It's a well sheltered area that allows fishermen the ability to work on the windiest days more safely.
- RISA Rational 3. This area is bordered to the west by the highly productive Western Greenwich (which is only open in the winter, rainfall dependent) and to the east by the new spawner sanctuary which is closed to shellfishing and has received a large volume of transplanted shellfish to increase it's biomass and spawning potential. We believe the added harvesting time in this area will not be detrimental to the overall production of these areas and their ability for recruitment.